



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands
National Lakeshore

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Apostle Islands News Release

Release date: Immediate

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Date: July 23, 2014

Oak Island Dock Area Temporarily Closed Due to Bear Activity

Oak Island – Due to increased bear activity, a temporary closure is in place for group site B and campsites 2 and 3 on Oak Island in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The dock is closed to overnight use and most day-use. Visitors with valid camping permits for group site A or campsites 1, 4 or 6 on Oak Island can be dropped-off at the dock, provided they leave the closure area as soon as possible. The closure is in effect beginning 8:00 am on July 25, 2014.

Two resident bears are frequenting the dock and campsite area, have boarded boats, and have caused very minor property damage. To the park's knowledge, these bears have not gotten human food - yet. Park staff are hoping that active hazing or deterrence will be successful in teaching the bears to be afraid of humans and avoid the need to close the entire island. The help of visitors is needed to make sure that no food is left unattended and any bear activity is reported immediately to the Oak Island Ranger or Park Headquarters at 715-779-3398, ext. 122.

National Park Service staff will monitor the bear and attempt to deter it from staying in areas frequented by people. The closure will be re-evaluated at least weekly. As soon as it appears the bear will stay away from visitor use areas, the closed portion of the island will be reopened. In the past the NPS trapped problem bears and moved them to the mainland. That practice was rejected because it either failed (bears often returned to the island) or because it simply made a problem bear someone else's problem.

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